

Memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To:
D ave Cathcart

Electoral reform

Senator Bayh was surely not listening closely about this query, perhaps understandably wanting to avoid rocking the boat when the amendment might have just made it. Now there is more time to look very closely at the technicalities; in a matter like this, we had better do so. It may also be raised much later as a quibble and delaying tactic by opponents of reform.

Will you see that someone does look very carefully at this? X+Y might front X in some states, Y in others, to get the most mileage. What happens if X dies during the campaign? All kinds of deals might be generated if there is any latitude.

[The political realities are that the election is for a President. We do better to abolish the office of Vice-President, unless (1) he is elected in alternate ~~xxx~~ elections, (2) is appointed by the President <who can well make an advance political commitment during the campaign>, or (3) is elected by Congress. I would prefer (2), with the proviso that a new election for President be held within 2 years after an accession. However, I do not fantasy making much headway with such innovations.]

H.

Bayh camp

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War windup campaigns.

It is vitally important that Congress continue to put strong pressure on the White House but as far as possible in ways that do not discourage the VC from early bargaining at Paris.

Another principle is to search for that issue that will win a majority, but only barely. Anything that gets through with a margin of more than a few (real) votes, was probably too modest. One angle is to reduce the number of extraneous issues as far as possible -- e.g. constitutional prerogatives.

One proposal: An amendment to the Selective Service Act stating that no draftee may be exported from the U.S. for service in a combat zone ~~for xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ except, in the event of a specific emergency declared by the President, for a period of no more than 30 days after such declaration -- which would also give Congress ample time to modify the act.) A draftee who is in a combat zone outside the US in contravention of the amendment (barring his own collusive acts) would be automatically discharged from military service. This would not affect draftees already abroad; it would hasten the substitution of a voluntary force for combat service; it does not, I believe infringe on the President's constitutional duties -- it is Congr's task to raise armies. It would have a strong appeal to the main source of public dissent; it makes no instant crisis to impede the windup.

Sincerely
J. L.

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